

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A container and lid assembly comprising:
2 a base;
3 a container body having a generally tapered wall structure extending upwardly
4 from the base defining a compartment therein;
5 a lid having a flexible peripheral portion that is collapsibly deformable as the lid
6 is moved along a predetermined range within the compartment.
- 1 2. The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the peripheral portion at
2 least partially circumscribes a central portion of the lid.
- 1 3. The container and lid assembly of claim 2 wherein the peripheral portion
2 includes an outer portion that abuts an inner surface of the wall structure and wherein
3 the outer portion is moved toward the central portion as the lid is moved toward the
4 base.
- 1 4. The container and lid assembly of claim 3 further including a hinge portion
2 between the outer portion and the lid.
- 1 5. The container and lid assembly of claim 4 wherein the hinge portion includes
2 a portion of reduced thickness.
- 1 6. The container and lid assembly of claim 2 further including a handle formed in
2 the central portion.

1 7. The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the flexible portion includes
2 a plurality of alternating upwardly and downwardly extending portions.

1 8. The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the flexible portion further
2 includes an upper surface which would abut a base of a like container stacked thereon
3 to urge the flexible portion outwardly against an inner surface of the wall structure.

1 9. A lid arranged for receipt within a container having a tapered wall structure and
2 base, the lid comprising a peripheral portion and a central portion integrally attached
3 to each other, the peripheral portion being collapsibly deformable toward the central
4 portion as the lid is movably oriented within the container toward the base.

1 10. The lid of claim 9 wherein the peripheral portion at least partially circumscribes
2 the central portion of the lid.

1 11. The lid of claim 10 wherein the peripheral portion includes an outer portion that
2 is movable toward the central portion of the lid as the peripheral portion is collapsibly
3 deformed.

1 12. The lid of claim 11 further including a hinge portion connecting the outer
2 portion to the lid.

1 13. The lid of claim 10 wherein the hinge portion includes a portion of reduced
2 thickness.

1 14. The lid of claim 9 wherein the flexible portion includes a plurality of alternating
2 upwardly and downwardly extending portions.

1 15. The lid of claim 9 further including a handle formed in the central portion.

1 16. The lid of claim 9 wherein the flexible portion further includes an upper surface
2 that would abut a base of a container stacked thereon, thereby urging the flexible
3 portion outwardly away from the central portion.

1 17. A container and lid assembly comprising:
2 a base;
3 a container body having a container wall extending upwardly and outwardly
4 from the base to define a compartment therein;
5 a lid having a central portion and flexible portion, the flexible portion including
6 an outer portion for abutting an inner surface of the container wall, the flexible portion
7 permitting movement of the outer portion toward the central portion as the lid is
8 moved toward the base in the compartment.

1 18. The container and lid assembly of claim 17 wherein the flexible portion urges
2 the outer portion toward the inner surface of the container wall.

1 19. The container and lid assembly of claim 17 further including a like container
2 stacked on the lid and abutting the flexible portion to urge the outer portion against the
3 inner surface of the container wall.

- 1 20. The container and lid assembly of claim 17 wherein the central portion further
- 2 includes a handle.